

THE
Traitors Mint,
Or a Full and True 1674
DISCOVERY
Of the GRAND CREW of
COYNERS & CLIPPERS of MONEY
IN
GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

BEING
A Perfect Relation of the Taking, Examination, and Commitment of Twenty several Persons
at *Tewsbury*, and *Stow in the Old*, for Trai-
terous Counterfeiting and Impairing
his MAJESTIES COYN.

All sent to *Glocester Goal* the Week before *Christmas*,
and now remaining there,

With the manner how they were first taken
notice of, and discovered; and their Confession
before JUSTICE DUTTON,
who Committed them.

London • Printed in the Year, 1674.

THE

TRAILERS' MINE

DISCOVERY

OF THE GRAND CREEK

OF THE TRAILERS' MINE

OF THE TRAILERS' MINE

AT THE TRAILERS' MINE

OF THE TRAILERS' MINE

OF THE TRAILERS' MINE

OF THE TRAILERS' MINE

OF THE TRAILERS' MINE

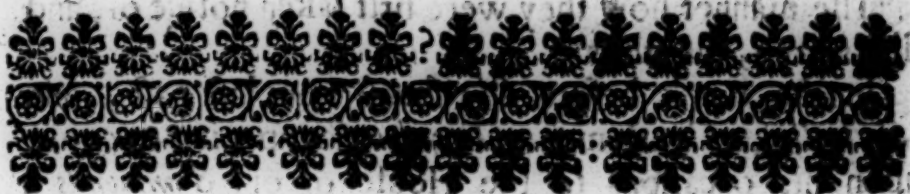
OF THE TRAILERS' MINE

OF THE TRAILERS' MINE

OF THE TRAILERS' MINE

OF THE TRAILERS' MINE

(1)



THE
Traytors Mint,

OR

A Full and True Discovery of the Grand
Crew of **COYNERS** and **CLIPPERS**
of **MONEY** in **GLOCESTERSHIRE.**

Amongst all the Villanies wherewith our wicked
ly ingenious Age abounds, there is none that
the Law punishes more severely than Coun-
terfeiting, or impairing Money; and good reason there
is for it, since the same is a Publick Cheat and abuse
to the Nation in general, and a Grand Obstruction to
Trade and Commerce, the Vitals of a Common-
wealth; yet cannot the consideration of such Capital
Punishment deter some people from so mischievous
and dangerous a practise, of which we have often had
too many single instances; but I think scarce ever so
remarkable an example in so many Confederates, as
this which we are now to relate.

(2)

The manner how they were first taken notice of, and discovered, was thus.

In the week before *Christmas* now last past, one *Mr. Collet*, a Gentleman at *Tuxbury*, happening to come upon this occasions to the House of one *Symmonds* a *Blacksmith* in that Town, observed him at work in his Forge, making of certain odd kind of Instruments, which he could not apprehend any persons there, or thereabouts, could have any occasion to make use of: He thereupon enquired what purpose they were for, but could receive no satisfactory answer, which made him very suspicious that they were intended for Clipping of Money. However, taking seemingly no notice, he went his way for the present, but forthwith acquainted the Bailiff of the Town what he had observed, and what his jealousy was in the case: Hereupon the *Smith* is sent for before the Bailiff, and examined; who affirmed, that he did not know what use those Instruments he was making were designed for; but that another *Smith* in the Town, whose Name was *Caringdon*, imployed him to make them by a pattern which he brought to him, and that he knew nothing more of the business: Upon this *Caringdon* is seized, and his House searched, where they found (though no clear demonstrations of the Fact) such shrewd cause of suspicion of Coynage and Clipping, that he was committed to the Goal; he having before so far cleared the other *Smith*, as to confess, that he imployed him; whereupon Bail was accepted for the said *Symmonds* Appearance at next Assizes.

Within few hours after this *Caringdon* was thus committed, a Stranger habited like a Gentleman came in to the Town, and setting up his Horse at an Inn, enquired.

quired for *Caringdon*, desiring to have him sent for; To which the people of the House replied, that they doubted he could scarce speak with him that night, for that they heard he was in some trouble, &c. At this the Stranger appeared more than ordinarily surprized, and swore he would neither eat nor drink till he had seen him, and so would have been going again: But the people from this earnest enquiry, and a carriage which spoke him concerned, suspecting him to be a Confederate, privately sent for an Officer, and secured him; and afterwards searching his Portmanteau, found therein fifty pound of new Money, which upon Tryal appeared to be all Brass and Copper gilt over. Before the Justice he would give no account of whom he had this Money, but only said in general, that he received it in payment from several men, and knew nothing but that it was good. However, that he might not break his Oath, it was thought fit he should see his Friend *Caringdon*, and so he was sent away to Goal after him. But it seems Fate had decreed a Discovery of the whole Cabal; for about the same time, at *Stow in the Old*, about a dozen miles from *Texxbury*, there living one *John Hart*, an honest poor man, some of his Neighbours (who as it since appears were Confederates with the others before-named in the Coyning and Clipping Mystery) were pleased to take special notice of his poverty and mean condition, seeming very sensibly to commiserate the same; adding withal, that if he would be ruled, and could be discreet, they would put him in a way to mend his Fortune. 'Tis easily imaginable, that so advantagious a Proposal to a person in extremity of want was welcomely entertain'd, and many enquiries made which way it should be accomplish'd;

(4)

plish'd ; but that they told him must yet be a secret, only this they would assure him, if he would but take a little pains with his hands, and hold his tongue, he should never want Money. This kind of discourse they had several times with him, but in such dark and Cloudy Language, that he knew not what certainly to make of it, only concluded in general, that they had some strange Plot or Design in their heads, which he doubted was none of the honestest, because they were so shy and wary to reveal it. However, being a person of good Principles, (for though Misers count it a Paradox, 'tis possible for a man to be deplorably poor, and yet very honest) not knowing what mischief might happen, he goes to one of his Majesties Justices of the Peace, tells him what offers had been made him, and by whom; and that he doubted they had some very naughty Project on foot: The Justice, like a prudent Magistrate, orders him seemingly to comply, and sound them as much as he could, to sift out, if possible, the nature of the business, and the names of as many of the Confederates, and all other material Circumstances as he could get. These directions the Fellow pursues, and becomes very intimate with many of them; they tell him the business is about Money, that they had a very cunning way to get very considerably, and that he was a Fool to be so scrupulous, since such and such (naming divers of their Gang, men of Estates and Repute in the World) were already engaged. He promised fairly to make one with them, and desired to know more of their place of working, and how particularly they ordered their affairs, but this they would in no wise grant till he had first taken an oath of secrecy, alleadging that the whole Brother-hood were under

under that obligation to each other; though the fellow had got leave of his Conscience to dissemble pretty handsomely, yet he could not dispence with forswearing himself, and therefore made some plausible excuse to avoid the oath for that time, and the next day acquainted the Justice with as much as he knew of the Intrigue which was in effect this much.

That at Stow and Tewksbury, and severall Townes and villages between and near those places, there were about threescore persons, for the most part Houskeepers, that were Confederates together, and concerned both in Coyning, and also in Cliping, VVashing, and fileing of money, and that they had all their engines Tools and Instruments necessary and fit for that purpose, and a place for them to work in, but where it was he could not tell, they having refused to let him know it unless he would take the oath, he gave in the names of Twenty men concerned, that several of them of good estates, some haveing 100 or 200 *l. per an.* and who the other were he could not positively say, for he onely heard there were many more, to the number of 60. or thereabout, but he never heard their names.

Upon this information VVarrants were made out with all speed and secreisie for the apprehension of those that he had named, and accordingly they were taken, and their houses searched, in several of which they found Quantities of new Coynded bad money, and some Clipings but the work-house where they did it is not yet discovered; upon their examination they would confesse very little, onely acknowledged the discourses they had with *Hart*, but said it was onely in jest, and to make sport with him, though tis more then suspected, it will prove very Tragical sport to them. There

(6)

is just twenty of them now in Gloucester Goal, and will
dayly expect to heare of more brought in; they were
very honourably Conducted by the County Troop,
and 'tis like may have more company when they come
next abroad.

Nammi sacrafames, quid non mortalia pectora Cogis.

This mighty Idol so bewitching, are the charmes of
money, that men will venture on the most desperate
project, and expose their lives to the most ignominious
deaths, rather then want meanes to supply their riotous
Extravagancies.

FINIS.

